GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5282
ANSWERED ON:05.04.2017
Railway Projects in Karnataka
Chandrappa Shri B.N.;Karandlaje Km. Shobha;Kateel Shri Nalin Kumar;Simha Shri Prathap;Singh Shri Sunil Kumar;Suresh Shri Doddaalahalli Kempegowda

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken up various railway projects such as new railway lines, doubling of tracks, gauge conversion, new trains and upgradation/modernization of some railway stations in the country including Karnataka;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the said new railway line projects and upgradation works have been completed/are being completed as per the time-schedule and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and the measures being taken to meet the deadline or early completion of the said works?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

(SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN)

(a) to (d): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

*****

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5282 BY SHRI D.K. SURESH, SHRI NALIN KUMAR KATEEL, SHRI B.N. CHANDRAPPA, KUMARI SHOBHA KARANDLAJE, SHRI SUNIL KUMAR SINGH AND SHRI PRATHAP SIMHA TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 05.04.2017 REGARDING RAILWAY PROJECTS IN KARNATAKA

(a) & (b): As on 01.04.2016, there are 458 ongoing projects across the country consisting of 166 New Line, 39 Gauge Conversion and 253 Doubling. Out of these 458 projects, 33 projects consisting of 17 New Line, 1 Gauge Conversion and 15 Doubling fall fully/partly in the State of Karnataka. Similarly, 79 new trains have been introduced in the country and 5 of them were introduced in the State of Karnataka. It has been planned to offer 'A-1' and 'A' category stations (about 400 stations) on Indian Railways, including 20 such stations in Karnataka for redevelopment, on 'as is where is' basis, by inviting open bids from interested parties with their designs and business ideas duly providing for amenities and other requirements of the Railways. The entire cost of station redevelopment is to be met by leveraging commercial development of land and air space in and around stations. Bids for redevelopment of 23 stations, including two stations, viz. Yashwantpur and Bangalore Cantt. in Karnataka, have been invited in the first phase.

(c): Execution of railway project faces impediments like acquisition of land, statutory clearances like forestry and wild life clearances, shifting of services, cutting of trees, construction of road over bridges and road under bridges by road maintaining agencies, availability of funds, etc. Several of these clearances and assistance from other departments are beyond the control of Railways. Further, Railways has a large shelf of ongoing projects with limited overall availability of funds for their execution. As a result, funds are thinly spread out thus prolonging the period of completion of most of the projects. Moreover, targets for completion of projects are set on yearly basis and funds to each project are allocated every year depending on the total budget outlay, progress made in each project & relative priority. Therefore, it will not be feasible to fix time lines for completion of all these projects.

(d): Railways is working on the alternative means of funding to accelerate project execution as detailed below:-

(i) Initiative for formation of Joint Venture Company with State Governments which makes the States a partner in growth of railway infrastructure in the States.

(ii) Institutional financing by tying up loan with M/s Life Insurance Corporation of India Limited for assured funding of viable projects has increased Railways' capacity for committed fund provision for essential projects.

(iii) Requesting State Government for cost sharing alongwith provision of free land & other concessions,

(iv) Encouraging PPP (Public Private Partnership).

To reduce delays on account of land acquisition, security issues and forestry clearances etc, meetings with State Government officials and Ministry of Environment & Forests at various levels are held from time to time.

Field units have been empowered with further delegation of powers to sanction estimates and award contracts.

*****